

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0136

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, KS (WOLFF, LESTER)

SUBJECT: CODEL WOLFF

1. CODEL WOLFF (REPRESENTATIVES LESTER WOLFF AND J. HERBERT BURKE) VISITED SEOUL DEC 29 - JAN 1. CODEL HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR AND CALLED ON PRESIDENT PARK, PRIMIN KIM CHONG-PIL, FONMIN KIM TONG-CHO, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER CHONG IL-KWON, AND ROK CIA DIRECTOR SHIN CHIK-SU. SCHEDULE ALSO INCLUDED AWARDING OF HONORARY DOCTORATES TO BOTH REPRESENTATIVES BY HANYANG UNIVERSITY, BRIEFING AT ROK CIA, AND VISIT TO MADAME PARK'S GRAVE, AS WELL AS SOCIAL ACTIVITIES HOSTED BY SPEAKER, FONMIN, YUCHONGHOE CHAIRMAN PAIK TU-CHIN, AND PRESIDENT OF HANYANG UNIVERSITY. CONGRESSMAN BURKE, WHO WAS VISITING ROK FOR FIRST TIME, ALSO RECEIVED TOUR AND BRIEFING AT PANMUNJOM.

2. HANYANG UNIVERSITY IN SPECIAL DEGREE CEREMONY CITED CONGRESSMEN FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN ROK AND US. CODEL IN ACCEPTANCE SPEECHES DWELT ON THEME OF LONG-ESTABLISHED CLOSE TIES AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT COOPERATION WOULD CONTINUE.

3. PRIVATELY, CONGRESSMAN WOLFF CAUTIONED BOTH SPEAKER CHONG AND FONMIN KIM THAT ROK SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ITS TREATMENT OF KOREAN AND US CLERGYMEN ATTRACTED UNFAVORABLE ATTENTION IN US WHERE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS CONSTITUTE POWERFUL LOBBIES. DURING CORDIAL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT, MR. WOLFF EMPHASIZED DIFFICULTIES FACING ROK IN CONGRESS. IN SUBSTANTIVE
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DISCUSSIONS WITH ROKG OFFICIALS ON US-ROK RELATIONS, MR. WOLFF

ALSO INFORMED KOREANS THAT HE WOULD BE NAMED CHAIRMAN
EITHER OF ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS SUB-COMMITTEE OR OF
FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE OF HFAC.

4. ALTHOUGH PRESS GAVE LESS PUBLICITY TO CODEL THAN TO
OVERLAPPING CODEL THURMAND, NEW YEARS DAY EDITION OF
GOVERNMENT KOREA HERALD FEATURED PICTURE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WOLFF AND BURKE SHAKING HANDS WITH PRESIDENT PARK.

5. COMMENT: ROK WENT ALL-OUT FOR CODEL, WITH NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY, ROKG, AND HANYANG UNIVERSITY VYING WITH ONE
ANOTHER IN HECTIC BUT WELL-COORDINATED SCHEDULE. BOTH
CODEL AND ROKG APPEARED SATISFIED WITH VISIT.

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